

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-15, 17-19, 26, and 28-29 are pending and stand rejected in this application. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks submitted herewith.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Erezzo for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview to Applicants' undersigned representative and Padma Choudry on June 6, 2011. During the interview, agreement was reached that the amendments made herein overcome the prior art of record.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the first and second jaw members are adapted to move in a scissoring motion in parallel but adjacent planes from a first configuration to a second expanded configuration. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example in paragraph [0045] and in Figures 12B-12C.

No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections


Claims 1-7, 10-12, 17-19, 26 and 29 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,542,949 of Yoon ("Yoon") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,038,987 of Komiya ("Komiya"). Claims 13-15 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoon in view of Komiya and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,810,846 of Virnich *et al.* ("Virmich"). Claim 28 is rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoon in view of Komiya and further in view of PCT Publication No. WO 00/54662 of Marucci *et al.* ("Marucci"). As indicated above, the Examiner has agreed that Yoon, Komiya, Virnich, and Marucci do not disclose first and second jaw members that are adapted to move in a scissoring motion in parallel but adjacent planes from a first configuration to a second expanded configuration. Thus, the pending claims, as amended herein, obviate the basis for rejection.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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